

Approved For Release 2005/01/05 : CIA-RDP75-00149R000700120007-8
 Washington Wire

A Special Weekly Report From
 The Wall Street Journal's
 Capital Bureau

ILL FEELING grows between Washington's antagonists on Vietnam policy.

The town divides increasingly into opposing camps. Tension shows in cocktail-circuit, dinner-party argument. Senate debate turns bitter. Majority Whip Long gets rough in answering the doves. He and Indiana's Hartke carry their "mad" into Finance Committee sessions. Johnson critic Fulbright, Johnson backer Russell snap at each other.

A handful of peace-minded House Democrats took out their ire at the President by voting to shelve his tax bill—against their usual inclinations. The liberals bristle at Speaker McCormack's claim that the House vote on Vietnam funds reaffirmed the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin resolution. Many had signed a statement pointed the other way.

A "sleep gap" in the inner Vietnam councils shortens tempers. McNamara blew up at an innocuous press conference question; he usually keeps his temper in public.

SURPRISE STANDS develop in top policy councils on the Vietnam war.

Rusk hardens his line, warning the Free World could come crashing down unless the U.S. pushes firmly ahead. McNamara voices rising concern that further escalation risks war with China. He favors seeking a way out, urges keeping a careful lid on bombing of North Vietnam. The defense chief was the big influence behind the December-January pause.

McNamara reins in military leaders, eager for a bigger U.S. buildup; the Joint Chiefs of Staff all favor sharp expansion of air and ground forces in the south, though differing on how much to step up bombing of the north. Goldberg remains a force for restraint, warning of weakening the U.S. position in the UN.

Harriman wins a higher ranking among Johnson advisers. He speaks out frankly. The veteran negotiator still hopes for some new chance to dicker with the Communists.

VIETNAM GRIPS policy-makers' attention, limiting other initiatives.

Rusk and McNamara generate no serious new ideas except for Vietnam; they lack the time and energy. Aides find it hard to snare Johnson's attention for anything but the war. Plans for revamping NATO or spurring East-West trade bog down amid questions about their bearing on Vietnam prospects.

Johnson mobilizes domestic agencies for social and economic reform in Vietnam; Freeman, Gardner and aides are diverted in part from home-front duties. A new coordinating mechanism will bring still more top-level attention to bear on the campaign. Domestic programs, including civil rights, take a back seat meantime. The new Urban Department gets little White House guidance.

The President gives little time to Democratic politics. Local leaders fret about national party failures to push voter registration, help recruit strong candidates.

more information on the CIA's doings. Senate Foreign Relations Committee members complain the agency tells top Armed Services and Appropriations committeemen some secrets their group can't hear. Question: Who must give the needed clearance?

MINOR MEMOS: ... just the Ohio Office of Opportunity. ... Republicans play up reports that Russia is installing missiles in Cuba again; they belittle a White House reassurance on the matter.